

Ms. Jessica L. Fandrich
3020 Revere Road
Floer, WI 54467

8/4/95

Dear Ms. Fandrich,

You ask what I may be able to suggest about Joe McCarthy's motives rather ambiguously and say that Professor Wronke "will not comment on," not, I'm wrong, you say that you "realized that" McCarthy's motives were not personal. I think that is true only as it relates to his targets and victims. In that sense he was not being personal by intent perhaps. But in the overall what he was up to was for his personal political benefit, I believe.

He was not new in that ugly and anti-American business. He merely was even less inhibited and more irresponsible than those who preceded him, most of all Martin Dies. Before Dies there was the McCormack-Dickstein committee in "unAmerican" activities, and when it hit real pay dirt, an actual attempt to overthrow FDR, it chickened out. John McCormack, from Mass., was later Speaker of the House. Sam Dickstein, of New York City, was his vice chairman. It was when Richard Nixon got appointed to the Dies committee that he took off as he did in Dies' steps and those of the men who preceded Dies and his associated anti-Americans, which they all were.

McCarthy saw how the others had profited politically from that ugly business and practised it himself.

I see now that I was not wrong above. Wronke may have his reasons for not giving you that comment.

I think that McCarthy's record after he went off on that ~~same~~ tack was consistent. For example, he tried to make a case that our soldiers were responsible for a massacre of Nazis at as I recall the battle of Malmedy in World War II. That had nothing at all to do with his red scare. That was openly pro-Nazi. It is one of the factors that can make an argument that McCarthy had turned in that political direction. It can also have been intended as an appeal to voters of German ancestry. If so that also was ~~unprincipled~~ unprincipled.

McCarthy certainly was aware that the red scare made careers or contributed much to that. Not only with the committees above and their counterparts in the Senate. J. Edgar Hoover's career got started when he was an important part of the red-hunts after World War I. Those were under then then attorney general, A. Mitchell Palmer. They could not have been more unconstitutional. With forced deportations without due process, among other abuses.

I think that McCarthy's motivations were both personal political benefit and the change in his own political views toward nazism. I made no study of him but I tried to pay some attention to what he was doing and I knew people who were his friends and heard a little from them. I hope this is helpful. Sincerely,

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